

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 080413
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:HCOLLUMS

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S:APSHANKLE

-----100154Z 015895 /62

O 100142Z APR 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080413

NODIS

FOL RPT BEIRUT 1462 ACTION SECSTATE 2 APR 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1462

NODIS

NEA FOR ATHERTON ONLY

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: ARMA TEL AVIV CONTACTS WITH LEBANESE

REF: STATE 072552

1. WILL LET BOUTROS KNOW DURING OUR NEXT MEETING
(EARLY IN WEEK TO DELIVER REPLY ON GENEVA) ABOUT
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FORTUITOUS CONTACT BETWEEN COL. WILLIAMS AND
LEBANESE MAJOR AS SUGGESTED YOUR 072552. LEBANESE
ARMY HEADQUARTERS HERE, WHICH IN HALF-HOURLY CONTACT
WITH CHRISTIAN FORCES IN SOUTH, APPARENTLY UNAWARE, AS
OF APRIL 2, THAT WILLIAMS-HADAD MEETING TOOK PLACE.

2. GIVEN EQUIVOCAL ATTITUDE OF GOL ON SUBJECT, DO

NOT EXPECT BOUTROS TO BE UNDULY CONCERNED, UNLESS ISRAELIS

CHOOSE TO PUBLICIZE IT. THERE IS WIDE BODY OF OPINION
HERE THAT WE AND ISRAELIS ALREADY COOPERATING IN SUPPORT
OF CHRISTIAN FORCES IN SOUTH. REPUTED ISRAELI USE OF FMS
EQUIPMENT AND MATERIEL, WHICH ISRAELIS TELLING LEBANESE
THEY SUPPLYING LEBANESE FORCES WITH OUR EXPLICIT CONSENT
(SEE, FOR INSTANCE, PARA B OF USDAO BEIRUT IR 6857001977,
DTG 111149Z MAR 77) AND PAST HIGH LEVEL USG CONTACTS WITH
SUCH CHRISTIAN LEADERS AS CHARLES MALIK AND CHAMOUNS ARE
AMONG PHENOMENA LEADING THEM TO SUCH A CONCLUSION.
BELIEVE GOL SECRETLY HOPES WE AND THE OTHERS WILL BET
ON WITH JOB AND COMPLETE ESTABLISHMENT OF CORDON
SANITAIRE QUICKLY.

3. ON RECEIPT OF TEL AVIV'S USDAO 0175 I CONSIDERED
MAKING A SQUAWK BUT DID NOT BECAUSE (A) WE WERE GLAD
SOMEONE FROM TEL AVIV OFFICE FINALLY WENT UP TO SEE
WHAT WAS GOING ON INSTEAD OF RELYING ON SECOND-HAND
REPORTS FROM ERRANT FINNS (WE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE
PLEASED HAD HE GIVEN A REPORT ON FMS MATERIEL QUESTION.);
(B) WE HAD CONCLUDED FROM STATE 062008 THAT THE
DEPARTMENT WAS REGARDING ISRAEL'S ACTIVITIES DOWN
THERE RATHER BENIGNLY. CERTAINLY, THERE HAS BEEN
NO VISIBLE RESPONSE TO OUR POINTING OUT THE POSSIBILITY
FMS EQUIPMENT BEING USED.

4. AGREE THAT SUCH CONTACTS COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE
CONSEQUENCES AND ARE SUBJECT TO MISUNDERSTANDING.

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HOPE TEL AVIV WILL AVOID REPETITION, BUT AT SAME TIME
HOPE EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON WILL
CONTINUE.
PARKER

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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